(iii) Gyandoot

(iv) Panchayati Raj Institutions Accounting Software (PriaSoft)

(v) RuralSoft

(vi) Geographical Information System (GSI) based Management Information System (MIS) for Rural Roads.

(vii) DIT had also set up Samadhan Kendras at Ujjain and Chitrakoot in M.P.

II. Andhra Pradesh (AP) : Customized RuralSoft 2000 Software, Rural Soft Financial Accounting Software, Informatics Website for Women Empowerment and Self Employment, EKPANCH Project towards computerizing all the activities of Gram Panchayat which include old age pension disbursement, Issue of Birth and Death Certificates, House Tax collection, Financial accounting, etc., is under implementation at Ramachandrapuram. Software tool for analyzing self help Groups, Below Poverty Line (BPL) Survey Group data entry software, a Web Application developed for monitoring habitation wise details of Borewells and People Welfare Schemes. DIT had also set up one Samadhan Kendra at Tadepalligudem, West Godavari District.

Under the IT/Computerization Schemes of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) both the States of M.P. and A.P. have been provided a central assistance of Rs. 3703.11 lakhs and Rs. 2567.97 lakhs respectively upto 31st March, 2003.

Cut in STD rate by BSNL

3586. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has announced major cut in STD rates;

(b) if so, to what extent and the date from which these rates became effective;

(c) whether the BSNL proposes to reduce the iSD rate also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A major cut in STD rates was announced by BSNL by reducing long distance call charges beyond 500 kms. From Rs. 9 per minute to Rs. 4.80 minute from 7th March, 2003.

(c) At present there is no proposal under consideration in BSNL for reduction in the ISD rates.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Cellular Licences

3587. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether seven companies have applied for cellular licences for mobile phones in nine States and regions across the country;

(b) if so, the firms which have applied for;

(c) how many of them have been provided licences;

(d) what are the main conditions put forward;

(e) by when they would operate cellular services in these States/ regions; and

(f) by when other parts of the country would be fully covered by mobile phones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, tenders were invited for grant of 14 Licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) to fill up vacant slots in 8 Telecom Circle Service areas (Andaman-Nicobar and West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, North East, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh East and Uttar Pradesh West). The said tender was cancelled as no bid was received from any of the following 7 companies who had purchased the tender document.

(i) M/s. Bharti Cellular Ltd.

(ii) M/s. Indmobile Ltd.